

September 18, 2022
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Second of Creation

We Gather In God's Presence

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song VU 381 "Spirit of Life"

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

inviting us to worship.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

inviting us by love.

God's Spirit calls to our spirits,

calling us by name, calling us to grow in faith,

calling us to be made new.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Amen.

Hymn VU 312 "Praise with Joy the World's Creator"

Praise with joy the world's Creator,
God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge,
God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory,
power to rescue and release.

Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,
frees the captive, finds the lost,
heals the sick, upsets religion,
fearless both of fate and cost.
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:
friend and stranger, guest and host.

Praise the Spirit sent among us,
liberating truth from pride,
forging bonds where race or gender,
age or nation dare divide.
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:
foolishness none dare deride.

Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,
one God in community,
calling Christians to embody
oneness and diversity.

This the world shall see reflected:
God is One and One in Three.

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Creator, your creation is awe inspiring – its beauty and its complexity. Everywhere we look, your fingerprints are there – the swirling cosmos, subatomic particles, cascading waters, the diversity of life, both flora and fauna. So why is it we try to erase your fingerprints like smudges on a window? We deny some creatures the food and habitat they need to live. We actively try to eliminate other creatures through hunting, trapping, or poisoning. We pollute the very air, water, and soil that all life depends on. We do this because we believe other life forms are either our competitors or our resources; we believe we are somehow above, or more important than they are. We are concerned only with our own benefit, and so we desecrate your creation. Oh, how your heart must be broken and your anger stirred at what you see. Remind us that you created us to be faithful stewards of your creation, not destroyers of it. Shatter our selfish misconceptions that we would be filled with awe and wonder at your creation once again. Grant us the will to put an end to our sacrilegious ways. Renew your creation, for your sake, we pray. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem “

Time for the Young and the Young @ 

Hymn VU 291 “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colours,
God made their tiny wings.

The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky;

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.

The rocky mountain splendour,
the lone wolf's haunting call,
the great lakes and the prairies,
the forest in the fall;

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God our maker,
who has made all things well.

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
in love, God made them all.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Consider the vast abundance of creation – the beauty of the lilies of the field, the flight of a chimney swift, or the unlikeliness of the duckbill platypus. It is altogether overwhelming and awe-inspiring. With gratitude we respond to the One who has created it all and blessed us with the gift of life.

Offertory Hymn VU 538 "For the Gift of Creation"

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Offering Prayer

Holy One, we worship you by giving back to you a portion of all that you have lavished on us. We give it that it may be used to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the homeless, comfort the troubled, and so much more so that all may know your blessings in their lives. Bless all that we offer. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

We thank you, compassionate God, that you hear the prayers of our hearts. We pray for:
Your church, that it may be freed from apathy or its focus on institutional survival, that it may return to its calling to transform the world. This week we pray especially for Forest United Church and their pastoral charge supervisor Pastor Carey Wagner as they work together to find a new spiritual leader.
For the people of the world, especially the people of Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay.
For all who rejoice at a baby's new birth,
For all who mourn when the circle is incomplete, when a friend or loved one has died, especially the friends and family of Jim Chaplow, Beryl Gedies, and all who mourn the death of Queen Elizabeth II.
For all who are grateful when their work meets with success,
For all who suffer because no work is to be found,
For all who are bored, not having enough to do,
For all who are tired, having too much to do,
For all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from medical treatment,
we pray especially for the Rev. Jim Evans, Mary Kaiser, Marje Lanning, Glenda McMillan, Marleen Parish, Doreen Snow, Mac Toner, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....

Thank you for hearing us in every situation of life. Help us to support one another always: rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep. This we pray in the name of the One who taught us to pray, saying,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For yours is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 79

O God, the nations have entered your domain,
defiled your holy temple and laid Jerusalem in ruins.

**They have left your servants' bodies for
scavenging birds,
the flesh of your faithful ones for wild beasts.
Their blood was shed like water around Jerusalem,
with none to bury them.**

We have become the taunt of our neighbours,
mocked and scorned by those around us.

**How long, O God? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealous wrath burn like fire?**

Pour out your rage on the nations that do not acknowledge you,
on the realms that will not call on your name;

**for they have devoured Jacob
and desolated Israel's home.**

Do not hold the sins of past generations against us;

**let your compassion come swiftly to meet us,
for we are sunk very low.**

Help us, O God our Saviour, for the glory of your name.

**Deliver us and forgive our sin,
for the honour of your name.**

Scripture: Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

The Prophet Mourns for the People

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
my heart is sick.

Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people
from far and wide in the land:

“Is the LORD not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?”

(“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?”)

“The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved.”

For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

*The other readings for this week are: **1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13***

Hymn MV 135 “Called by Earth and Sky”

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean’s dream, waters of healing,
rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit,
blow through this place, our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening,
rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day. Fire of passion,
sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

Meditation: "What were we thinking?"

We Go Forth With God's Blessing

Hymn VU 685 "We Turn to You"

We turn to you, O God of every nation,
giver of good and origin of life;
your love is at the heart of all creation,
your hurt is people's pain in war and death.

We turn to you, that we may be forgiven
for crucifying Christ on earth again.
We know that we have never wholly striven
to share with all the promise of your reign.

Free every heart from pride and self-reliance,
our ways of thought inspire with simple grace;
break down among us barriers of defiance,
speak to the soul of all the human race.

On all who fight on earth for right relations
we pray the light of love from hour to hour.
Grant wisdom to the leaders of the nations,
the gift of carefulness to those in power.

Teach us, good Lord, to serve the need of others,
help us to give and not to count the cost.
Unite us all, to live as sisters, brothers,
defeat our Babel with your Pentecost!

Commissioning and Benediction

Embrace your call to:

**seek justice and resist evil,
love and serve others, and
live with respect in God's creation.**

Go, living out that calling and your individual ministries in the world.

**And may the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
go with us, this day and always.**

Amen.

Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there supporting us with love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, amen, amen.

ALL:

Book Study: *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg. If you are interested in this study, please let Rev. Mark know **today** so books can be ordered (they are about \$10), and day of the week and time of day can be set. The study will be broken down into two sessions. Session 1 will run for 5 weeks this fall, and Session 2 will run for 7 weeks in the winter/spring (perhaps the 7 weeks of Lent).

UNION:

Choir practices have resumed on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. ALL welcome.

September Outreach are the Elgin-St. Thomas, and Port Stanley Food Banks.

DORCHESTER:

Choir practices have resumed on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. ALL welcome.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (September 25, 16th after Pentecost)

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15; Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31